claims

1. A backup system for storing data objects on secondary storage devices, the backup system comprising a plurality of buffer memories for interfacing with the secondary storage devices and the back up system being configurable to couple at least a sub-set of the buffer memories in a daisy-chain.

2. The backup system of claim 1, further comprising at least one backup media agent having a plurality of the buffer memories and a program module for writing data from the buffer memories to one of the secondary storage devices assigned to the at least one backup media agent.

3. The backup system of claim 2, further comprising a backup group having a plurality of the backup media agents.

4. The backup system of claim 2, further comprising at least one mirroring backup media agent, the mirroring back up media agent comprising a plurality of buffer memories and a program module for writing data from the buffer memories to one of the secondary storage devices assigned to the at least one mirroring backup media agent, and at least a sub-set of the buffer memories of the at least one backup media agent being coupled in a daisy-chain configuration to at least a sub-set of the buffer memories of the at least one backup media agent.

5. The backup system of claim 4, further comprising at least one mirror group comprising a plurality of the mirroring backup media agents.

6. The system of claim 4, at least first and second ones of the mirroring backup media agents being coupled in a cascaded configuration for providing first and second mirroring levels.

7. The backup system of claim 2, further comprising at least one restore media agent comprising a plurality of buffer memories and a program

module for reading data objects from one of the secondary storage devices assigned to the at least one restore media agent, at least a sub-set of the buffer memories of the at least one restore media agent being coupled to at least a sub-set of the buffer memories of the backup media agents.

8. The backup system of claim 7, further comprising at least one restore group having a plurality of the restore media agents.

9. The backup system of claim 7, further comprising a copy group, the copy group having a plurality of the backup media agents.

10. The backup system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of client computer systems and a backup server, the plural client computer systems having primary storage devices for storing the data objects, and each client computer system having a backup component for assigning an unequivocal identifier to data objects and for sending the data objects with the assigned unequivocal identifiers to the backup server.

11. A server computer system comprising:

a plurality of buffer memories for coupling to a plurality of backup storage devices,

a configuration file for defining a configuration of the buffer memories for providing at least one level of data mirroring.

12. A server computer system comprising:

a plurality of buffer memories for coupling to a plurality of secondary storage devices,

a configuration file for defining a daisy-chain configuration of the buffer memories for copying data objects from a first sub-set of the secondary storage devices to a second sub-set of the secondary storage devices.

13. A memory storing a computer program for controlling a computer system to cause coupling a plurality of buffer memories in a daisy-chain, the buffer memories being adapted to be coupled to secondary storage devices for back-up or copying data objects, the computer program comprising instructions for reading a daisy-chain configuration definition of the buffer memories from a configuration file.

14. A memory storing a computer program for controlling a computer system for providing a user interface, the computer program comprising instructions for enabling a user to enter a specification for a configuration of buffer memories of a backup system, and for enabling the buffer memories to interface with secondary storage devices for storing or copying of data objects.

15. The memory of claim 14, wherein the instructions enable a user to specify a daisy-chain configuration of the buffer memories.

16. The memory of claim 14, wherein the instructions enable a user to specify a backup group comprising a plurality of backup media agents, each backup media agent having a plurality of buffer memories and a program module for writing data from the buffer memories to one of a plurality of secondary storage devices being assigned to the backup media agent.

17. The memory of claim 16, wherein the instructions enable a user to enter a mirror group comprising a plurality of buffer memories and the program module for writing of data from the buffer memories to one of the secondary storage devices being assigned to the mirroring media agent, and for specifying the coupling of a at least a sub-set of the buffer memories of the backup media agents and at least the sub-set of the buffer memories of the mirroring backup media agents.

18. The memory of claim 14, wherein the instructions enable a user to enter a restore group, the restore group comprising a plurality of backup media agents.

19. The memory of claim 18, wherein the computer instructions enable a user to enter at least one copy group, the copy group comprising backup media agents.

20. A method of storing data objects on secondary storage devices by using plurality buffer memories at least a sub-set of which are coupled in a daisy chain configuration, the method comprising the step of:

storing the data objects on the secondary storage devices through the buffers.

21. The method according to claim 20 further comprising coupling the sub-set of the buffer memories in the daisy-chain configuration.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the buffers are coupled to provide one or more data mirroring stages.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the buffers are coupled to provide one or more data copying stages.